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Trade and Development Board
Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission
Tenth session
Geneva, 3–7 December 2018
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Provisional agenda and annotations

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II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. The tenth session of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission will be held from 3 to 7 December 2018.

2. The provisional agenda of the tenth session of the Commission was approved by the Trade and Development Board at its sixty-fifth session, part I, on 26 June 2018. At the session, the Commission will discuss the substantive agenda items of investment and entrepreneurship for development, and science, technology and innovation for enterprise development. At the session, the Commission will also consider the report of sixth session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Investment, Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Productive Capacity-building and Sustainable Development and the report of thirty-fifth session of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting. Furthermore, the Commission will examine relevant activities implemented by the secretariat that have promoted and strengthened synergies among the three pillars of UNCTAD.

Item 1
Election of officers

3. In accordance with rule 18 of the rules of procedure of the main Commissions of the Trade and Development Board, the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission shall elect a Chair, five Vice-Chairs and a Rapporteur from among the representatives of its members. Moreover, rule 19 of the rules of procedure states that the Bureau of the Commission shall consist of seven members (i.e. four members from lists A and C combined, two members from list B and one member from list D, referred to in the annex to General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX) as amended).

4. Accordingly, following the cycle of rotation, the Bureau for the tenth session of the Commission will be as follows: a Chair from list D; a Rapporteur from list A (Asia); three Vice-Chairs from lists A and C combined; and two Vice-Chairs from list B.

Item 2
Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

5. The provisional agenda for the tenth session of the Commission was approved on 26 June 2018 at the sixty-fifth session, part I, of the Trade and Development Board. A programme of work will be circulated prior to the meeting.

Documentation

TD/B/C.II/38	Provisional agenda and annotations

Item 3
Reports of expert meetings

(a) Report of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Investment, Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Productive Capacity-building and Sustainable Development

6. Under the agenda item, the Commission will consider the report of the sixth session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Investment, Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Productive Capacity-building and Sustainable Development.

Documentation

TD/B/C.II/MEM.4/18	Report of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Investment, Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Productive Capacity-building and Sustainable Development on its sixth session

(b) Report of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting

7. Under the agenda item, the Commission will consider the report of the thirty-fifth session of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting.

Documentation

TD/B/C.II/ISAR/87	Report of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting on its thirty-fifth session

Item 4
Investment and entrepreneurship for development

8. There is a negative trend in foreign direct investment, with global foreign direct investment flows falling by 23 per cent in 2017 to $1.43 trillion, down from $1.87 trillion in 2016, and a slowdown in global value chains. This is of concern considering that foreign direct investment remains the largest external source of finance for developing economies (amounting to 39 per cent of their total incoming finance), and now accounts for only less than 25 per cent in structurally weak and most vulnerable economies (with a declining trend since 2012). Building on the conclusions of the 2014 through 2018 editions of the *World Investment Report*, at the session, the Committee will consider ways and means in which national and international investment policies can counter this trend, with a view towards creating the conditions for economic growth and prosperity in these countries.

9. In line with established practice of the Commission, its work will continue with the consideration of the investment policy reviews of Cabo Verde and Lebanon, which will provide a further opportunity to gather experiences and identify best practice policies in attracting investment for sustainable development.

Documentation

UNCTAD/WIR/2014–2018	*World Investment Report*, 2014–2018 editions
UNCTAD/DIAE/PCB/2018/2	*Investment Policy Review: Cabo Verde*
UNCTAD/ITE/IPC/2017/11	*Investment Policy Review: Lebanon*

Item 5
Science, technology and innovation for enterprise development

10. Science, technology and innovation are important means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, among other reasons, because of their potential to drive innovative entrepreneurship that delivers growth and productive employment. Networks of dynamic, innovative firms are also a key feature of successful productive diversification and industrialization strategies. Therefore, the development of science, technology and innovation capabilities among firms and entrepreneurs should be a focus of attention for policymakers. Under the agenda item, the Commission could consider policy experiences regarding the development of technological and innovative capabilities in developing countries (such as measures to address financial constraints, promote networks and clusters or leverage the opportunities created by the emerging digital economy), in order to promote the emergence of more technologically capable and innovative enterprises and, ultimately, raise productivity across all sectors of the economy. In order to facilitate the discussion of the agenda item, the secretariat has prepared a background document on the topic.

Documentation

TD/B/C.II/39	Science, technology and innovation for enterprise development

Item 6
Progress report on promoting and strengthening synergies among the three pillars

11. Under the agenda item, the secretariat will report on progress made in promoting and strengthening synergies among the three pillars of UNCTAD work in the areas covered by the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission.

Item 7
Other business

12. As per past practice, the Commission will be briefed by the secretariat on the latest developments on trends and policies in the area of investment and enterprise for development.

Item 8
Adoption of the report of the Commission to the Trade and Development Board

13. The report of the tenth session of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission will be submitted to the Trade and Development Board.